



SR0689

LRB098 14742 GRL 49632 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of John P. Meyer of Danville, who passed away on October 31, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, John Meyer was born on August 17, 1920; his parents were Frank P. and Frances Clare (nee Brady) Meyer; he married Barbara (nee Martin) Cullen in 1942; he married Mertyce (nee Erickson) Fagot in 1969; and

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WHEREAS, John Meyer attended Washington Grade School and St. Patrick's Grade School before graduating from Danville High School in 1937; he subsequently attended the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a bachelor of science in commerce and a doctor of laws degree from the Notre Dame Law School; and

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WHEREAS, John Meyer served with the 14th Armored Division (The Liberators) as an Artillery Forward Observer during World War II; he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action; he was discharged in 1946 at the rank of captain; following his discharge, he served as adjutant general of the 14th Armored Division; and

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WHEREAS, After being admitted to the Illinois Bar, John Meyer practiced law in the Vermilion, Sangamon, and Cook County

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1 areas for more than 55 years until his retirement in 2003;
2 after practicing in the firm of Burke, Twomey, and Johnson, he
3 started a partnership with Henry Wise and Thomas Graham; the
4 firm later added Charles Young, Daniel Welsh, and Paul Maton to
5 become Graham, Wise, Meyer, Young, Welsh, and Maton; he was
6 later admitted to practice before the United States Supreme
7 Court and won an important antitrust case before the Court;
8 after retiring, he officed with his son, Chris, in the law firm
9 named Dukes, Ryan, Meyer and Freed, Ltd.; he also served as
10 first assistant attorney general for the State of Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, John Meyer was elected to and served in the
12 Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate; while in
13 the House and Senate, he introduced and passed legislation
14 creating a public defender's office for downstate Illinois and
15 was an architect of the Fair Employment Practices Act; he
16 served as chairman of the Legislative Commission on Narcotic
17 Drugs and introduced and passed legislation creating State
18 funding of Illinois Community Colleges, including Danville
19 Area Community College; he also served as a judge of the
20 circuit court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit; and

21 WHEREAS, John Meyer was the recipient of the Thomas J.
22 Crowe Interracial Justice Award; he was also chosen as a First
23 Citizen of Danville in 1987; and

1 WHEREAS, John Meyer was an active member of his community;
2 he participated in youth football, the Museum Society, the
3 United Way, the Schlarman Foundation, the Danville Dans, and
4 his pet project, The Christian Home for Youth, which assisted
5 in the rehabilitation of juveniles who came before the Juvenile
6 Court; he was also a member of St. Paul's Church, the American
7 Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
8 the Elks Club, the Danville Country Club, the Illinois Judges
9 Association, and the Vermilion County and American Bar
10 Associations; and

11 WHEREAS, John Meyer and his wife purchased, sold, and raced
12 thoroughbred horses, some of whom were winners of races in
13 Florida, Kentucky, and Illinois; he was also the author of the
14 popular book, "Observations of an Elderly Gentleman"; and

15 WHEREAS, John Meyer is survived by his children, John P.
16 (Toni) Meyer, Jr., Marilyn (Rudy) Manfredi, Elizabeth
17 (Russell) Elam, Michael Meyer, Melinda (David) Jankowski, and
18 Christopher P. (Susan) Meyer; his stepson, Robert "Rob" (Kathy)
19 Fagot; his 11 grandchildren; his 13 great-grandchildren; and 7
20 step-grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
23 family and friends, mourn the passing of John P. Meyer; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of John Meyer as an expression of our
4 sympathy.